



THE UNITED STATES AT THE CARICOM MINISTERIAL

Security and Law Enforcement

"We will continue our efforts to safeguard our citizens and to ensure that individuals throughout our hemisphere enjoy the full benefits of freedom."
—President George W. Bush

Security and Law Enforcement are key issues to be discussed at the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) Ministerial in The Bahamas, March 21-22, 2006.

The Caribbean is the third border of the United States. As neighbors, the United States and CARICOM countries work together to stem the flow of illegal drugs and to promote security in the Western Hemisphere. Caribbean and U.S. leaders recognize that narcotics and small arms trafficking, money laundering, and illegal migration affect us at home and in the region. The United States will provide close to \$10 million to these countries in 2006.

The Third Border Initiative

The Third Border Initiative will strengthen the ability of Caribbean institutions to address social and economic problems, combat transnational crime, and promote regional security. Much of the nearly \$6 million in Fiscal Year 2005 funding for the initiative was used to help establish more secure border measures. Recent programs include:

- **Border Management**
Assessments to enhance capacity in the region;
- **Aviation Safety**
Oversight/Security
Training to provide assessments and training;
- **Training and assistance to Customs and Border Officials;** and
- **Tourism Infrastructure Disaster Preparedness.**



Police in Barbados participated in a US training course in Explosive Incidence Counter Measures, held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana between October 31 and December 9, 2005. US Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Mary Kramer presented the police with \$30,000 in explosive-related equipment.

SUCCESS STORY

The Grants Pen Bicycle Patrol was inaugurated on April 13, 2004 as part of the U.S. Agency for International Development's five-year, \$3.85 million community policing program. The daily bike patrols by the Jamaican Constabulary Force (JCF) have helped members of the patrol to form a working rapport with residents of the troubled Kingston community of Grants Pen. Bicycle patrol members have been engaged in community activities, including serving as referees for a sports invitational meet, providing traffic control during the running of a short-distance race, and facilitating the distribution of information on how to acquire identity documents and register for government programs.

Preparing for Natural Disasters

In preparing for disasters in the Caribbean, the U.S. has:

- Provided significant funds for hurricane recovery programs in Grenada, Haiti, and Jamaica;
- Expanded its relationship with local emergency management agencies to reduce response time;
- Expanded earthquake and tsunami monitoring in the Caribbean in partnership with several CARICOM nations; and
- Helped improve border control systems and improve coastal zone and watershed management in the Dominican Republic.

New Challenges

The United States remains committed to cooperating with our Caribbean partners to respond to emerging threats to personal safety and national security. We will continue to fund the development of a Regional Information and Intelligence Sharing System. We understand the security challenges Caribbean countries face in preparing for the Cricket World Cup 2006. We will provide counterterrorism training and consider seriously requests for additional assistance.



Jamaican Bike Patrol

The U.S. and CARICOM countries also jointly recognize the threat that illicit trafficking in arms poses to the security of the Western Hemisphere and have pledged to enhance regional cooperation in concrete and practical measures to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trafficking in arms in the region. They urge other states in the hemisphere to join in their initiative.